



—States-Item Photo.
PIERRE SALINGER

Salinger Says Kennedy Not '68 Candidate

By ROSS YOCKEY

Pierre Salinger, former White House press secretary and a close friend of the Kennedy Family, said in New Orleans today that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy will definitely not be a candidate for presidential nomination in 1968.

Salinger, who served as intermediary between the nation's press and the late President John F. Kennedy, made the remark in an interview before addressing a meeting of the Mid-American Periodical Distributors at the Roosevelt Hotel.

THE ONE-TIME senator from California said he is certain that Robert Kennedy has no other political ambitions at present other than as serving as a New York senator.

He added that Kennedy has

made no decision on whether he will aim for presidential candidacy in 1972, when President Lyndon B. Johnson will be unable to run for reelection.

"It's clear he cannot be a candidate for president in 1968," said Salinger. "Beyond that, the political crystal ball is just too hazy to tell. I know Bobby has not made any plans for 1972 as yet."

Nowadays, he said, planning a political future is a shaky business, because of "the rapidly changing tide of public opinion."

The mass communications media—newspapers, radio, television, movies and magazines—are primarily responsible for this ever-shifting tide, Salinger theorized, since on national or international figure can say or do anything without it being read or viewed by millions of

people.

"TO SAY THAT ANY politician could stay alive politically for the next four years is asking a lot," he stated.

"Witness the rise and fall of (Michigan Gov. George) Romney and the sudden rise of (California Gov. Ronald) Reagan."

Speaking of Reagan's meteoric advance in the national political spectrum, Salinger called the West Coast Republican "a product of the times."

Reagan, he said, "has taken advantage of mass communication. Unfortunately, we don't have many politicians who can communicate well, so people who have made a career of communicating are filling that void."

"Until the political scientist also takes on the ability to communicate you are going to continue to see communication experts in the forefront of politics."

Salinger said this movement is not restricted to the United States, but has become evident in a number of European countries, notably France.

He said he has just returned from a lengthy stay in France, where he had an opportunity to study the politics of that nation.

SALINGER SEES French President Charles de Gaulle and his supporters as being "more pro-French than anti-American, even though some of the things they do are justifiably seen as being contrary to the best interests of the United States."

He said Frenchmen have been "somewhat shaken" by some of de Gaulle's latest political moves and that Gaullist forces may soon be forced into a back seat by opposing political parties.

"There may soon be a vote in the French Parliament to unseat De Gaulle's government," said Salinger, but most members are still hesitant to take definite steps other than "jockeying for position to take over after De Gaulle leaves."

"After De Gaulle," said the Democrat, "the French policy will evolve into a lot of things that we're interested in."